

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Basic Officer Course
The Basic School
Marine Corps Combat Development Command
Quantico, Virginia 22134-5019

B0334

COMBAT ORDERS II
(Patrol Orders)

Student Handout

A general should say to himself many times a day: If the hostile army were to make its appearance in front, on my right, on my left, what should I do?

- Napoleon

1. **INTRODUCTION**

a. This handout compliments *Combat Orders I*, though focuses primarily on the patrol order. As discussed in *Introduction to Patrolling*, there are inherent risks associated with patrolling operations. The primary risk is the patrol's numerical size in relation to the size of an enemy force it may encounter. Generally, foot-mobile patrols are organized around squad, squad reinforced and platoon sized units. Due to their size, patrols often lack the firepower required to become decisively engaged with an organized enemy force. Adding to this, patrols generally operate independently and outside friendly lines--often without the support of adjacent units. Patrols often operate in areas where the intelligence picture of the enemy is vague. To counter this uncertainty, the patrol leader **plans in detail for the unexpected**. As in all combat operations, thorough planning for a patrol increases the chance for success and reduces internal friction.

b. Each member of a patrol has a specific and vital role. The patrol's success depends on ensuring that everyone is thoroughly familiar with his assigned role and its relationship to the responsibilities of every other patrol member. Thus, good patrol orders are **understood by all members of the patrol**; clearly specifying the mission and actions of the patrol as well as the actions and responsibilities of each unit, team, and individual. Without a firm understanding of the plan, the risks involved in patrolling exponentially increase.

2. **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PATROL ORDER.** Patrol Orders use the same Five Paragraph Order (SMEAC) and FRAGO formats taught in *Combat Orders I*; however, due to the nature of patrolling, more emphasis is placed on certain aspects of the order. These are discussed throughout this handout. Additionally, the Warning Order (WO) taught in *Combat Orders I* is generally the same for patrolling as far as content and information; however the format we will use for patrol warning orders is a matrix style.

3. **THE PATROL WARNING ORDER**

a. As discussed in *Combat Orders I*, the warning order is issued as soon as possible upon receipt or anticipation of a mission. The purpose of the warning order is to initiate the preparation and execution of a new mission by ensuring the efficient management of time, and providing notice to subordinates of action to follow. **A clear warning order saves time and focuses the planning effort**. The patrol warning order contains as much information as is available at the time of issuance. The warning order adheres closely to the five paragraph order format. The *Combat Orders I* student handout lists the information that should be considered when writing a warning order. Those items apply to patrol warning orders also.

b. *The patrol warning order is issued to each member of the patrol directly from the patrol leader--not through the subordinate chain of command.* To facilitate this process and to ensure the efficient use of time, **the patrol warning order is normally written in a matrix format, issued first orally to the patrol, and then posted for each member of the patrol to read.** This technique ensures that every patrol member receives the necessary information, and it allows for concurrent planning and preparation by subordinate leaders. **Refer to Appendix A for an example of a patrol leader's warning order.**

4. **THE PATROL ORDER**

a. Once the patrol leader completes his plan, he issues his patrol order. A good patrol order gives subordinates the essential information required to conduct the patrol. Outlined below is the operation order format highlighting those aspects of the order where more emphasis is required for a patrol order. Like other combat orders, patrol orders are most effective when issued orally with the aid of terrain models, overlays and graphics. When the patrol order is issued, all members of the patrol should be present. **Appendix B is an example security patrol order.**

b. **Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs)**. Every minute used in planning for combat is extremely valuable--minutes wasted can never be regained. To save valuable time in the planning and preparation of combat, units will often develop several standing operating procedures (SOPs). For complex operations such as patrolling, SOPs can be particularly valuable. SOPs are procedures and techniques used habitually for accomplishing routine or recurring actions. SOPs facilitate and expedite operations by simplifying the preparation and issuance of orders; by simplifying training and mission preparation; by enhancing understanding and teamwork among the unit leader and his subordinates; and by reducing confusion and errors. At the platoon level, SOPs are not necessarily written. Rather, they are often established as a result of well planned and extensive unit training. **Appendix C is the TBS Patrolling SOP**. Used in conjunction with your patrol orders and rehearsals, it will enhance your mission preparation and save you valuable time.

PATROL (FIVE PARAGRAPH) ORDER FORMAT

ORIENTATION. Refer to *Combat Orders I* for what is required for an orientation. For patrolling orders, the orientation takes on additional significance. Patrols depend heavily on the efficient use of terrain and weather for security. Therefore, during the orientation for a patrol order the patrol leader should ensure he emphasizes their potential effects on the patrol. Also included in a patrol's orientation are known and suspected danger areas and obstacles within the patrol's AO.

TASK ORGANIZATION. Patrols are task organized to delegate unit, team and individual responsibilities. Before issuing the order, it is important that the patrol's task organization is understood by all members of the patrol. This way, each member of the patrol understands his assignment before the body of the order is issued. If the task organization was given during the WO, and no changes exist, then it *does not* have to be repeated before the issue of the patrol order.

1. **SITUATION**. Refer to *Combat Orders I*. The situation paragraph contains three subparagraphs: Enemy Forces, Friendly Forces, Attachments and Detachments.

a. **Enemy**. Refer to *Combat Orders I*. Ensure you discuss all enemy forces that could affect your patrol.

b. **Friendly**. Refer to *Combat Orders I*. If the patrol is departing from a defensive position, ensure you discuss the general layout of the defense in particular; obstacles, passage lanes, and the locations of SP/LPs and other patrols or security forces operating in and around your AO.

c. **Attachments and Detachments**. Refer to *Combat Orders I*.

2. **MISSION**. According to *Combat Orders I*, the mission statement is a clear and concise statement of what the patrol is to accomplish. It expresses the patrol's primary task and purpose by addressing the "five W's": Who, What (task), When, Where, and Why (the *in order to ... purpose*) for the mission assigned. Following the mission statement the patrol leader specifies which has priority: TIME or MISSION. For example, if time has priority, the patrol then returns to friendly lines, regardless of whether the mission has been accomplished, by the time directed by higher headquarters. If mission has priority the patrol will continue the operation, regardless of time, until the mission is accomplished. The command that directed the patrol to be conducted generally dictates whether TIME or MISSION has priority.

3. **EXECUTION**

a. **Commander's Intent**. Refer to *Combat Orders I*.

b. **Concept of the Operation**. Refer to *Combat Orders I*. The concept of operation includes scheme of maneuver and fire support plan.

(1) Scheme of Maneuver. Refer to *Combat Orders I*. The scheme of maneuver is where the leader explains his plan to accomplish his assigned mission. It describes the patrol's planned actions in general terms. Keep the explanation anonymous, concise and simple. Brief the scheme of maneuver in a logical sequence, from the patrol's start to conclusion (departure through reentry of friendly lines). For security patrol operations, the scheme of maneuver is essentially a general route overview. For mission specific patrol operations, such as ambushes or raids, the scheme of maneuver will also include a general summary of actions at the objective area.

(2) Fire Support Plan. Like all combat orders, the fire support plan describes how fire support will be used to complement the scheme of maneuver. The patrol leader integrates a fire support plan into his scheme of maneuver and describes how he intends to use supporting indirect fires during the patrol. For raid and ambush patrols, this paragraph can also be used to describe how the patrol leader intends to include organic and attached direct fires (e.g., M-60 machine guns, SMAWs, etc.) to support his scheme of maneuver. Included in the fire support plan are the following:

- the purpose/concept of the fire support plan and how it will integrate with and support
- the scheme of maneuver.
- the priority of fires and when priority shifts within a unit
- the location, description and target designation of pre-planned targets that support the
- scheme of maneuver.
- the location of firing units (organic and attached only)
- permissive and restrictive control measures on the use of fires (e.g., NFAs, RFAs, etc.).
- allocation of targets (i.e., priority targets, final protective fires)

c. Tasks. According to *Combat Orders I*, task statements are the specific mission(s) to be accomplished by each subordinate unit. They answer the "5 Ws." For patrolling orders however, a subtle difference exists. As you learned during *Introduction to Patrolling*, patrols operate and move as a single entity with one mission. The primary mission for each element of the patrol is therefore the patrol's mission. Tasks to subordinate elements of a patrol support the patrol's mission statement and generally do not have to answer all the "5 W's". Task statements to subordinate elements of a patrol simply assign responsibilities and tasks required for the patrol. When tasks are multiple they are itemized in subparagraphs. Up to this point, you have assigned tasks to squads and fireteams. For patrolling operations, we task units, teams, and key personnel -- each being assigned separate and distinguishable responsibilities. The tasking statements for patrols are listed in the following sequence: Units (Headquarters, Security, Assault, and Support) first, then Teams (Aid and Litter, Search and POW, etc.), and finally Key Personnel (usually in order of command, i.e., APL, RTO, Navigator, Point, etc.).

d. Coordinating Instructions. As you learned in *Combat Orders I*, coordinating instructions are those specific instructions or tasks that tie the plan together. Included are details of coordination that pertain to two or more units within the unit. Patrol orders include many of the same coordinating instructions you previously learned; though due to a patrol's inherent complexity, patrol orders also include several instructions not common in other combat operations. Items commonly addressed in the patrol order's coordinating instructions include the following:

(1) Planning and execution time line. Include all tasks to be accomplished through the conduct of the patrol. Examples include: time of rehearsals and inspections, time of departure (TOD), time of return (TOR), debrief time, etc.

(2) Tactical and fire control measures. Refer to *Combat Orders I*. For patrolling operations examples include: assembly area, checkpoints, rally points, etc. When briefing the tactical control measures, point out their location on your terrain model and give the

coordinates.

(3) Primary and alternate routes. Give the routes, azimuth and distance for both primary and alternate routes. Depict and point out both primary and alternate routes on your terrain model.

(4) Organization for movement. Describe in detail the patrol's planned formation(s).

(5) Departure of friendly lines. Describe the planned details that will occur from the assembly area to your first planned security halt.

(6) Reentry of friendly lines. Describe the planned actions that will occur from the reentry rally point to the debrief. Ensure primary and alternate link up signals are included.

(7) Insert/Extract Plan. For patrols that are inserted or extracted by helicopters, vehicles, or boats, a detailed insert/extract plan is required. For inserts, describe the details that will occur from the pickup point to the patrol's first security halt away from the insert point. For extracts, describe the details that will occur from extract rally point through the drop off point back within friendly lines. Other information that should be considered includes the following: insert and extract load plans; insert point and/or extract point security plans and procedures; primary and alternate routes of the insert/extract; and the signal plan used to facilitate linkup. *Helicopter Operations* discusses helicopter insert and extract planning. *Urban Patrolling I* discusses vehicle insert and extract planning.

(8) GO/NO-GO Criteria. Used when conducting security, ambush, raid, or reconnaissance patrols. Criteria is established for guidance on whether to abort or continue the mission in case of compromise, personnel loss, equipment failure and/or a changing enemy situation. GO/NO-GO criteria is generally established by higher headquarters.

(9) Action at rally points. Include criteria for remaining and departing rally points, escape azimuths, time limits, as well as location of any tentative rally points.

(10) Actions on enemy contact. Address your immediate action drills in detail. Refer to Appendix C (Patrol SOPs) for actions on enemy contact. Actions on enemy contact should include the following:

- (a) Hasty ambush
- (b) Immediate assault
- (c) Counter ambush
- (d) Break contact battle drill
- (e) Reaction to indirect fire
- (f) Reaction to aerial attack
- (g) Reaction to booby traps and mines

(11) Actions at danger areas. Describe the planned actions for crossing both linear and cross compartment danger areas. Refer to Appendix C (Patrol SOPs) for actions at danger areas.

(12) Actions at halts. Describe the planned actions for both long and

short security halts. Refer to Appendix C (Patrol SOPs) for actions at halts.

(13) Actions at the objective area. This is generally the focus for ambush, raid, or area reconnaissance patrols. This is generally not required for security patrols. Actions at the objective area are discussed briefly during scheme of maneuver and in-depth here. Actions at the objective area will be discussed at length during *Conduct of the Patrol II*.

(14) Rehearsals and inspections. Explain the plan for accomplishing rehearsals and inspections and where they will take place. Give the priority of actions you want to rehearse.

(15) Commander's Critical Information Requirements (CCIRs). [WHEN DIRECTED BY HIGHER HEADQUARTERS.] State the critical information that should be collected during the conduct of the patrol and any other additional information that is requested by higher headquarters. *CCIRs are those situations (enemy, friendly and operating environment) deemed crucial by the commander. The reporting of CCIRs may have a significant impact on the tactical decisions made by higher headquarters. They must be reported IMMEDIATELY.*

(16) Rules of engagement (ROE)/constraints and limitations. (When applicable) ROEs and operational constraints and limitations must be clearly understood by all Marines. **THEY ARE DIRECTED BY HIGHER HEADQUARTERS.**

(17) Debrief. Describe where, when and who will be present at the patrol's debrief.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. Refer to *Combat Orders I*.

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL

a. Signal. In this subparagraph the patrol leader discusses the communication plan to include; radio, hand and arm signals, voice commands, and mechanical signaling devices required for movement, during contact, and at the objective area. In short, all actions anticipated during the conduct of the patrol that require a thorough understanding by every patrol member and involve signal plans, such as link-up operations (e.g., departure and reentry of friendly lines, rally points, etc.), must be emphasized and discussed in detail. These include:

(1) Communication plan to include call sign and frequencies and times when the signal plan changes. Furthermore, the patrol leader needs to mention who carries the CEOI (generally the radio operator) and where it can be found on his body.

(2) Signals to control the patrol.

(3) Signals to control the battle (generally applies to mission specific patrols such as raids and ambushes).

(4) Challenge and passwords (primary and alternate).

(5) Brevity codes and codewords. Any reports anticipated or required (e.g., POSREPs, SITREPs, SPOTREPs, CASREPs, etc.) are also addressed.

(6) Execution checklist (when required).

b. Command. Refer to *Combat Orders I*.

5. **SUMMARY.** This handout reemphasizes much of what you previously learned during *Combat Orders I*. The focus however is order writing for patrolling operations. The patrol order is a key ingredient in ensuring an understanding of the patrolling plan. As in all combat operations, thorough planning for a patrol increases the chance for success. Remember, a good patrol order is **understood by all members of the patrol**; it clearly specifies the mission and actions of the patrol as well as the actions and responsibilities of each unit, team, and individual. You will receive and issue several patrolling orders in the weeks ahead, and you will quickly understand the importance they play in the success of a patrol.

APPENDIX B

PATROL LEADER'S SAMPLE SECURITY PATROL ORDER**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

YOU ARE THE SQUAD LEADER FOR 2D SQUAD, 1ST PLAT, B 1/7. YOUR COMPANY IS CURRENTLY IN A DEFENSIVE POSTURE AND TASKED WITH BLOCKING A MONTANYAN MRB SOUTH OF DAVID'S CROSSROADS (VIC. TT791709). THE COMPANY IS GENERALLY ORIENTED SOUTHEAST, WITH A FRONTAGE OF APPROXIMATELY 600 METERS.

ORIENTATION: Break out your maps and orient them to the terrain model. Also, make sure you can see the entire terrain model. The terrain model is oriented to the ground and encompasses our present position and the area forward of our company's defensive position. North is indicated by the E-tool in the upper right-hand corner of the terrain model. Our current position is in the vicinity of the Plat CP vicinity of TT789712. The boundaries are as follows: MCB-6 to the north; the TT69 grid line to the south; the TT78 grid line to the west; and the TT80 gridline to the east. Dominant terrain features within the area include the 40 foot tower located at David's Cross Roads and MCB-3 to the south. The blue yarn on the terrain model indicates streams; and the sticks, solid and broken, indicate roads and trails respectively. The terrain is gently rolling with the exception of a large cross-compartment danger area located within the vicinity of TT792707. The vegetation is thick and generally SLOW-GO for foot movement. A mixed forest dominates the area with several intermittent streams. Though these factors may provide us cover and concealment, they will also hamper our movement.

Today's forecast calls for rain and temperatures in the mid 30's. The rain may slow our movement and reduce our visibility, but it will also dampen our noise.

BMCT @ 0600

Sunrise @ 0628

Sunset @ 1646

EECT @ 1712

Moonrise @ 2300 with 50% illumination

Since we are departing during daylight and returning during darkness, we will contend with the effects of both during our patrol. The daylight will require us to disperse and make greater use of any cover and concealment. The lunar illumination should allow us to continue to stay dispersed at night, however we will have slow our movement to compensate for the reduced illumination.

TASK ORGANIZATION: As briefed in the Warning Order.

1. SITUATION**a. Enemy Forces**

(1) **Composition, Disposition, and Strength.** Three weeks ago, elements of the Montanyan Army began to cross the Montanyan/Centralian border in an effort to shore up the CRF insurgency. The 51st Motorized Rifle Battalion is presently staged in an assembly area 8km SE of here, vicinity of TT855656. The S-2 believes they are preparing for a large-scale (battalion size) assault into Centralia. For the past 24 hours, our company's defenses have been probed by squad-size, footmobile patrols. These patrols are likely from the 51st MRB. It appears they are attempting to gain information on our current disposition and strength. The patrols are armed with Russian-made small arms and wear desert pattern utilities and jungle covers. They have good communication capabilities and can effectively use their supporting 120mm mortars.

(2) **Capabilities and limitations.** The Montanyan MRB is an extremely well-trained force fully capable of conducting battalion size operations. Though they are a mechanized force with an extensive logistical network, given the terrain in this region, they will likely dismount several kilometers short of their objective to conduct a deliberate attack. They are well equipped, well trained and well led. They are night vision capable. Their limitations include their lack of air cover and their current lack of information on our disposition and strength. Their recon patrols are operating several kilometers forward of their main forces so it is unlikely they can be rapidly reinforced.

(3) **Enemy's most probable course of action (MPCOA).** We anticipate the enemy will continue its squad size scouting/ reconnaissance patrols in the vicinity of our position for at least the next 12 to 24 hours. These patrols will likely avoid contact with our patrol; focusing their attention primarily on the company's defensive position. They will avoid decisive engagements and will likely break contact if attacked. However, an attack by the 51st MRB could come from the southeast at anytime. They may attempt to take advantage of the current overcast weather--*which is currently limiting our air cover*. Should this occur during our patrol, the MRB's main assault forces would likely attempt to fix and bypass us. Their objective is likely to be our company's defenses at David's Crossroads.

b. Friendly Forces**(1) Higher**

(a) **Mission.** The remainder of the platoon continues its mission as the company reserve from its

present position.

(b) Commander's Intent. The company's defenses are being probed by Montanyan reconnaissance forces. We must deny them the ability to conduct these probes and prevent them from gathering further information about our defensive positions.

(2) Adjacent

(a) 2d Plat occupies BP-2 vic of TT793709.

(b) 3rd Plat occupies BP-3 vic TT788709.

(c) Our Plat (-) remains in reserve at our current location (TT788712).

(d) There are 4 SPs currently positioned forward and on the flanks of the company's defense. Their general location is depicted on the terrain model. Their positions will adjust closer to the defense during the hours of darkness (LPs). I will confirm their exact locations with the forward platoon commanders prior to our departure. I will inform you of their location immediately prior to the final inspection.

(3) Supporting. The Company's 60mm mortar section is positioned in the vicinity of TT793713. Priority of fire for the mortars is the final protective fire, our patrol, 2d Plat, 3rd Plat, then 1st Plat (-).

c. Attachments/Detachments. None

2. **MISSION**. At 1700, our squad conducts a security patrol forward of our company's defensive position in order to prevent the Montanyans from conducting effective reconnaissance of the company's defense and to provide early warning of a Montanyan attack. Return to friendly lines NLT 2100. Time has priority.

3. **EXECUTION**

a. Commander's Intent. We are to prevent the Montanyans from conducting an effective reconnaissance of the Company's defenses. In the event of a full scale a Montanyan attack, we will provide the company early warning.

b. Concept of the Operation

(1) Scheme of Maneuver. [Patrol Leader refers to terrain model] Our squad will conduct a day/night security patrol forward of our company's defense. Our primary route is depicted on the terrain model in red. The alternate route in yellow. I will brief the primary route. We will conduct the patrol as follows: we will depart through 3d Plat defensive position (BP-3) and move in a southwesterly direction for approximately 600 meters to our first checkpoint. On our second leg, we will travel in a southeasterly direction for approximately 600 meters to reach our second checkpoint. Our final leg will take us generally north, back towards the east flank of the company's defense, for approximately 900 meters to our RRP. Once in the vicinity of the defense, we will coordinate linkup with a guide and then reenter friendly lines through 2d Plat defensive position (BP-2). If our primary route becomes untenable or if directed by higher, we will patrol along the alternate route.

(2) Fire Support Plan. Once we depart friendly lines, our company mortars will be our only fire support. We have priority of fires from the company's 60mm mortars during the conduct of the patrol. They will cover our movement throughout the patrol. If contact is made with a squad size or smaller force, I intend to use the mortars to neutralize the enemy and pursue him by fire should he attempt to break contact. If contact is made with units greater than squad size, I intend to use our mortar fire to suppress him, slowing his advance and to cover our withdrawal back through friendly lines. The following on-call targets are planned:

	<u>TGT #</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>Description</u>
	AH1001	787704	Intersection of draw and trail
	AH1002	796702	Intersection of trail and MCB-3

c. Tasks

(1) Security Unit

(a) Provide continuous forward security. Push security as far forward as possible though keep in sight of the HQ Unit.

(b) Assist me in navigation. Have the coverman maintain a pace count.

(2) Assault Unit

(a) Provide continuous rear security.

(b) Be prepared to provide suppressive fires and to maneuver against the enemy during the patrol..

(c) Per the Warning Order, designate separate two-man Search and EPW and Aid/ Litter teams.

(d) Provide one pace man.

(3) Search/EPW Team

(a) Be prepared to search, handle and provide security for EPWs IAW the 5 Ss and a T.

(b) Ensure you bring the appropriate gear as detailed in the Warning Order.

(4) Aid/Litter Team

(a) Be prepared to provide first aid treatment to individuals during the patrol.

(b) Report immediately to me any significant change in the condition of the wounded. Ensure that

you have the appropriate first aid and litter equipment on hand.

(5) APL

- (a) Supervise the flanks--push them out as far as possible.
- (b) You are responsible for reporting personnel accountability to me during all halts, and any time following the crossing of a danger area.
- (c) Assist in navigation.
- (d) During consolidation, get an ammo, casualty, and EPW report. Redistribute ammo as required. Have any casualties brought to the casualty collection point.
- (e) Keep me informed on the status of ammo and water during the patrol.
- (f) Ensure all special equipment, including three NVGs, are drawn from the Plat Sgt. at the Plat CP.
- (g) Assist in rehearsals. Ensure we keep to the timeline I designate in this order.

(6) Radio Operator

- (a) Maintain radio contact with higher HQ.
- (b) On order, report the patrol's actions, movements, etc. using the brevity codes contained in the CEOI. Memorize all pertinent brevity codes prior to our departure. On order, report all checkpoints.

(7) Navigator

- (a) You are tasked with the patrol's navigation. Know our location at all times.
- (b) Keep the point man oriented on the patrol route.
- (c) Notify me when we arrive at designated checkpoints.

(8) Pacers. Keep an accurate pace count at all times and inform me whenever we reach designated checkpoints.

d. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Time Line:

1400	Rehearsals
1600	Coord. with FUC
1630	Final inspection
1645	Mvt to Passage Point (PP)
1700	TOD
2100	TOR
2130	Debrief

(2) Tactical Control Measures

Assembly Area	TT788713
Passage Point	TT788707
Initial Rally Point	Designated enroute to PP
Checkpoint 7	TT787704
Checkpoint 9	TT789699
Checkpoint 16	TT792704
Checkpoint 22	TT802705
RRP	TT792708
Contact Point	Coordinated with FUC prior to departure
Enroute Rally Points will be designated during movement approximately every 400-600 meters.	

(3) Primary and Alternate Routes. (all azimuths are magnetic)

- (a) Primary:
 - From POD to CP 7: 187 degrees for 600 meters
 - CP 7 to CP 9: 135 degrees for 600 meters
 - CP 9 to RRP: 350 degrees for 900 meters
- (b) Alternate:
 - From POD to CP16: 130 degrees for 650 meters
 - CP 16 to CP22: 60 degrees for 800 meters
 - CP 19 to RRP: 275 degrees for 700 meters

(4) Formation During Movement. **[Patrol Leader explains IAW Standing Operating Procedures (SOP); if the patrol is familiar with unit SOP's, he says "By SOP" or "IAW SOP". If the PL wishes to reemphasize any of the following Coordinating Instructions, he explains them using visual aids (PL lays out the patrol formation with 3 x 5 cards).]**

(5) Departure of friendly lines. IAW SOP.

(6) Reentry of friendly lines. IAW SOP.

(7) Actions at rally points. Rally points will be designated every 400-600 meters. If any member of the patrol becomes separated from the main body, those individuals will return to the last rally point and wait 15 minutes. After 15 minutes have elapsed, those Marines will fall back to the previous rally point and wait an hour. At the end of the hour, the senior Marine will decide whether to continue or abort the mission. He will base his decision on the following GO/NO-GO criteria: if six

Marines are present, one being a unit leader, and a radio is in their possession, then continue the mission. If they fail to meet the GO criteria then abort the mission and return to friendly lines via the escape azimuth. The escape azimuth is 350 degrees. Once in the vicinity of friendly lines, wait at the RRP. Reentry linkup will be IAW SOP.

- (8) Actions on enemy contact (Immediate Action Drills)
 - (a) Hasty ambush: IAW SOP.
 - (b) Immediate Assault: IAW SOP.
 - (c) Counter-Ambush:
 - (i) Near: IAW SOP.
 - (ii) Far: IAW SOP.
 - (d) Break contact: IAW SOP.
 - (e) React to Indirect Fire: IAW SOP.
 - (f) React to an aerial attack or observation: IAW SOP.
 - (g) Reaction to booby traps or mines: IAW SOP.
- (9) Actions at Danger Areas. IAW SOP.
- (10) Actions at Halts
 - (a) Short: IAW SOP.
 - (b) Long: IAW SOP.
 - (c) Listening: IAW SOP.

(11) Rehearsals and Inspections. All patrol members will muster at the Plat CP for rehearsals 10 minutes following this order. Priority for rehearsals are as follows: (1) Actions on enemy contact; (2) Actions at danger areas; (3) Actions on patrol; and, (4) Departure/reentry of friendly lines. Once these are complete, the APL and I will conduct the final inspection.

- (12) Commander's Critical Information Requirements (CCIRs).

- (a) Location of Montanyan armor. What is their location, activity and direction of travel?
- (b) Location of Montanyan forces platoon size and larger. What is their location, activity and direction of travel?

(13) Weapons test fire. Due to the company's present security situation, we will **not** do a test fire of our weapons. Instead, just prior to our departure, we will conduct a weapons dry function check.

(14) Debrief. Following our reentry into friendly lines, I will pass pertinent information to the 2d Plat Commander and then the entire patrol will move to the company CP where we will be debriefed by our Plat Commander, the Company XO and a Bn S-2 representative.

(15) With the exception of the company's SL/LPs, there are no other friendly units forward of the company's defense. Any unit encountered is considered enemy.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. Administration

(1) WIAs will be transported back to friendly lines by the aid/litter team. Only in life critical situations will we request MEDEVACs.

(2) KIAs will be brought back to friendly lines by the Aid/Litter team.

(3) EPWs will be handled in accordance with the "5 S's and a T." We will keep them with us for intelligence reasons and will bring them back for interrogation. If I determine they are too much of a security risk and upon approval of HHQ, we will leave them in place with their arms bound and their eyes blindfolded.

b. Logistics

(1) In accordance with the WO, resupply will be available upon our return to friendly lines.

(2) Every man needs to ensure he has two full canteens before leaving.

(3) Because of the cold, each man should have at least one insulating layer to put on, kept in his butt pack.

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL

a. Signal

(1) Primary means of communication within the patrol during movement is hand and arm signals. **[If the patrol is unfamiliar with the hand/arm signals, the PL demonstrates them. These include : Rally points, checkpoints, danger areas, headcount, pacecount, hasty ambush, long security halt, listening halt, etc.].**

(2) The Radio Operator will now present the brevity codes for the patrol.

[The radio operator goes through the following brevity codes:]

Request permission to depart friendly lines PITTSBURGH

Have departed friendly lines ALASKA

Have arrived at Checkpoint # TAMPA

Enemy contact RENO

At RRP (request permission to reenter friendly lines) ORLANDO

Have linked up with the guide LOS ANGELES

Reentering friendly lines SAN DIEGO

(3) The reports we need are on page 3 of the Communication Electronics Operating Instructions (CEOI).

Everyone must be familiar with the SPOTREP, SITREP, and POSREP formats in the event the RTO is injured.

- (4) Our primary frequency is 37.50; alternate 40.30.
- (5) Challenge and Password remain in effect until tomorrow at 2359.
Primary: IRON/HORSE.
Alternate: LARGE/PACKAGE
Running Password: BROWN BEAR

- (6) Far recognition signal

- (a) Day: The person who initiates will take off his cover, motion in a circle, and put it back on.

The recipient will do the same, but wait to put his cover back on until motioned to come forward.

- (b) Night: **The moving unit will initiate** by two flashes of a red lens flashlight. **The stationary unit will return** one flash, to be confirmed by three flashes from the moving unit.

- (7) The near recognition signal is the challenge and password.

b. Command

- (1) The platoon commander and platoon sergeant will remain at the Plat CP, located at TT789712.
- (2) During movement, I will travel with the HQ unit.
- (3) Succession of command as per the WO.

Time is now 1330, any questions?

If there are no more questions, unit leaders take charge of your men and have them out at the rehearsal area at 1345.

APPENDIX C

TBS STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR SQUAD SIZE PATROLS

The contents of this SOP conform to the instruction taught during Conduct of Patrol I.

1. KEY PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES**a. Assistant Patrol Leader**

(1) The APL is second in command--he takes charge in the absence of the PL. **He is fully versed on all aspects of the mission, scheme of maneuver and fire support plan.**

(2) The APL handles casualties, MEDEVACs, and EPWs. He assists the PL in personnel accountability. Following an engagement, he redistributes ammo and gives the PL ammo, casualty and EPW reports.

(3) The APL supervises the radio operator.

(4) The APL ensures the patrol is always alert and security conscious.

(5) The APL oversees the patrol's admin and logistics. When directed by the PL, he issues paragraph 4 of the patrol order.

(6) As directed by the PL, he supervises specific units and individuals.

(7) The APL assists in the dissemination of situational updates to the patrol and ensures unit leaders pass this information down to their subordinates.

b. Navigator

(1) The navigator is tasked with the patrol's navigation. He coordinates with the PL on the details of the patrol's route.

(2) He often accompanies the PL during forward unit coordination to accord with the forward unit's guide and to orient himself with the passage lane and the area forward immediately forward of friendly lines.

(3) When tasked, he assists the PL with the planning of the patrol's route and with developing the patrol's overlay.

(4) He constructs the terrain model for the patrol leader's order.

(5) During the conduct of the patrol, he orients the pointman and continually informs the PL as to the patrol's location.

c. Radio Operator

(1) The Radio Operator (RTO) draws all communication equipment to include an SL-3 complete radio, **a spare handset and battery**, frequencies, call signs and brevity codes (CEOI). He sets the radio to the pre-set frequencies directed by the PL (e.g., primary, alternate and fire support frequencies). He carries the CEOI in his left breast pocket.

(2) Upon drawing the radio and setting the frequencies, he conducts a complete Op-check of the radio **before returning to the patrol**. Radios will be Op-checked again at least 1 hour before departure.

(3) The RTO waterproofs the patrol's radio and carries a field expedient antenna's kit (to include an eraser, wire, insulators).

(4) He memorizes all pertinent brevity codes, and knows all necessary report formats.

(5) He carries water-proof writing material, a working red lens flashlight, and during night patrols, carries a poncho. When required, the radio operator acts as the patrol's recorder.

2. DEPARTURE OF FRIENDLY LINES. NLT thirty minutes before the time of departure, the PL leaves a 5 point

contingency plan with the APL and conducts forward unit coordination. The PL takes two Marines as security, one being the navigator. PL meets with the forward unit's commander (FUC) to coordinate departure and reentry plans. The patrol's navigator links up with the forward unit's guide. When the PL returns to the assembly area, he moves the patrol toward the departure point. Enroute, he designates the initial rally point (IRP) and links back up with the patrol's navigator and the forward unit's guide. Upon final approval from higher and under the direction of the forward unit's guide, he moves the patrol to the passage lane. The APL, following in trace of the forward unit's guide, leads the patrol through the passage lane. The patrol assumes a dispersed file behind the APL in the order of Security, HQ, and Assault Units. Once the patrol reaches the far side of the passage lane (enemy side), the forward unit's guide stops and, as the patrol continues its movement, the APL counts out all patrol members. While continuing its movement, the patrol transitions into the patrol column formation. Approximately 200 - 300 meters forward of friendly lines, the patrol conducts its first listening halt.

3. **ORGANIZATION FOR MOVEMENT.** The basic patrol column for a jungle/forested patrol is depicted below. The distance between members of the patrol will depend on the enemy situation, terrain, obstacles, vegetation and visibility.

4. **REENTRY OF FRIENDLY LINES.** When the patrol reaches its Reentry Rally Point (RRP), the PL halts the patrol for a long security halt. The PL then radios higher headquarters and requests to reenter friendly lines. If communications cannot be established, he then executes the alternate plan--normally to meet a guide at the contact point within a pre-designated time window. Once permission to reenter is granted, the PL passes a 5 point contingency plan to the APL and departs for the contact point, taking two Marines for security. The PL halts at the contact point to meet the forward unit's guide. The PL initiates the far recognition signal. The forward unit's guide responds. Once far recognition is established, the PL advances to meet the guide. The PL and the forward unit's guide pass information as necessary and then, leaving one man with the guide, the PL moves back to pick up the rest of the patrol. The PL moves the patrol forward to the contact point where the forward unit's guide then leads the patrol back through the defensive lines. As the patrol enters the passage lane, it collapses into a dispersed file. On the far side of the passage lane (enemy side) the PL and the cover man count the patrol into friendly lines. Once reentry is complete, the PL passes a SITREP to the FUC. The patrol is then debriefed.

5. **ACTIONS ON ENEMY CONTACT (IMMEDIATE ACTION DRILLS)**

[WHEN BRIEFING AI DRILLS, THE PL SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THE PLANNED ACTIONS ON HIS TERRAIN MODEL.]

a. Hasty Ambush. When the patrol observes an enemy patrol, the PL may choose to conduct a hasty ambush. The individual who first spots the enemy executes the appropriate hand-and-arm signal (a rifle brought up at eye level). All patrol members then slowly take cover and observe their assigned sector for security. Once the PL confirms, he gives the appropriate hand-and-arm signal. The patrol then moves abreast in that direction. Those on the flanks continue to provide flank security. The RTO observes and covers the patrol's rear. *The PL normally initiates the ambush.*

b. Immediate Assault. If a patrol member sees the enemy, and at the same time is observed by the enemy, he immediately engages the enemy. The firing signals to the rest of the patrol the general direction of the contact. The patrol then maneuvers in reaction to the contact as directed by the PL. The PL either directs the patrol to assault through the enemy, or if the patrol is facing a superior force, directs the patrol to break contact.

c. Counter-Ambush

(1) Near. When a patrol is caught in a near ambush (within hand grenade of the enemy's position), those caught in the kill-zone immediately return fire--if escape from the kill zone or cover within the kill zone is not available, they then immediately assault through the enemy's position to disrupt the ambush. Those not in the kill zone return suppressive fire, and if need be, maneuver to support those in the kill zone.

(2) Far Ambush and Reaction to a Sniper. When a patrol is caught in a far ambush (outside hand grenade range), those caught in the kill zone take cover and return suppressive fire. *The PL makes the decision whether to assault or break contact.* Should the PL choose to assault, those not in the kill zone will maneuver to a position from which they can assault the enemy. The reaction to a sniping is the same.

d. Break contact. When a patrol is in contact with a superior force, the best course of action for a patrol is generally to break contact. When a PL directs the patrol to break contact, he initiates the action with two long whistle blasts. He then gives break contact direction and distance. Patrols generally break contact by bounds; one unit moving while the other units cover their withdraw with suppressive fires. The patrol continues their withdrawal until it is no longer in contact with the enemy and has reached a safe rally point..

e. React to Indirect Fire. When attacked by indirect fire, it is critical that patrols immediately take cover and then, when possible, move away from the impacts. If patrol members hear the rounds coming in, they immediately take cover. Once the initial salvo is over, the PL gives a direction and distance for the patrol to move. The patrol then double-times out of the impact area in the direction prescribed by the PL.

f. React to an aerial attack. If the patrol identifies enemy air, the patrol takes cover and remains motionless in the hopes that the aircraft doesn't spot the patrol. If the patrol is observed, they maneuver so they are perpendicular to the aircraft's flight path. If the patrol is to return fire, the PL will direct the patrol's fires at a point that intersects with the aircraft's flight path.

g. Reaction to booby traps and mines. When a patrol member encounters a booby trap or mine, he gives the hand-and-arm signal for **freeze** and then the hand-and-arm signal for booby trap. All members of the patrol halt, take a knee and orient outboard. Since it is possible that there are other mines or booby traps in the area, *only the PL or APL should move*. The PL or APL will investigate the device and then the PL directs what action to be taken. Possible actions include, but are not limited to the following: moving on a back azimuth to vacate the area; probing the area for mines; or simply marking the booby trap/mine and continuing with the patrol. The patrol's location and mission influence what action should be taken.

6. ACTIONS AT DANGER AREAS

a. Linear. At the sign of a linear danger area, the pointman halts the patrol. The PL moves forward and confirms the danger area. He then signals to the patrol and designates near and far side rally points. The flanks position to provide flank security along the linear danger area. When directed by the PL, the security unit crosses the danger area and conducts a zig-zag recon of the far side. Once the far side of the danger area is secure, the SUL signals back to the PL. The PL, leaving the APL in charge on the near side, crosses the danger area with the RTO. The APL directs the rest of the patrol across in either pairs or units. The APL crosses last, along with the flanks. Once the entire patrol is across, the APL conducts a moving headcount and the patrol departs the area.

b. Cross-compartment. When a patrol encounters a cross-compartment danger area, the actions are generally the same as crossing a linear danger area with two exceptions. First, when the PL designates a cross-compartment danger area, the patrol moves abreast so they observe the cross compartment and provide cover for the patrol as it crosses. Second, when the PL crosses the danger area, he takes the flanks with him. When the flanks reach the far side, they orient outboard covering the far side flanks.

7. ACTIONS AT HALTS

a. Short. When the patrol column stops, patrol members react as if it is a short security halt. The patrol orients outboard, with each individual moving to the nearest cover and taking a knee. By doing this, the patrol ensures 360 degree security.

b. Long. The PL determines all long security halts and will inform the patrol accordingly. Patrol members position in the prone behind good cover and concealment. Those in the center of the patrol column will then move outboard to form an oval or cigar-shaped perimeter. The APL will then disseminate guidance and assign sectors of fire to unit leaders.

c. Listening. When it is apparent that an enemy force in the area or if something unidentifiable is heard, the PL may stop the patrol and conduct a listening halt. The PL initiates a listening halt by an exaggerated **touching of the ear**. Patrol members repeat the signal until the entire patrol is advised. The patrol then halts in place. Everyone remains silent and listens until the PL signals to continue movement.

